

In 2004, he competed in the trials for the Athens Paralympics in Minneapolis, but did not make the team. Instead of giving up, Joe tried again at age fifteen and was successful, competing in one event at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. His goal after Beijing was to make it to London, but this time he wanted to compete in multiple events.

Joe's strength and perseverance was tested once again in February of 2012 when he was preparing for the 2012 London trials. His health forced him to take a medical withdrawal from college and pause from swimming. His "times" got slower, his heart continued to weaken, and he began spending more time on the ventilator. Joe's doctors and coaches refused to give in and vowed to get him to London. By early May, Joe's condition drastically improved and in June he tried out and earned a place on the team.

All of Joe's time, effort and hard work paid off as he competed in five Paralympic events: the 200-meter individual medley; the 100-meter butterfly; the 100- and 400-meter freestyle; and the 100-meter breaststroke. He finished fifth in the finals of the 400-meter freestyle race, with a personal best time of 4:15.66. Joe is extremely proud of his results and says the victory was in being selected for the team. Joe has now returned to Loyola University, Maryland, to pursue a degree in political science, with a minor in communications. He intends to continue swimming and will be preparing for Rio 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire House of Representatives join me in honoring this brave and gentle young man. Joe is determined to reach for gold. He's not only won us over with his smile and spirit, he has also won our hearts with his courage and can-do attitude. Joe is deeply loved and supported by his community of family and friends, and his secret weapon is his mother, Marie Wise. Joe is an inspiration to us all and it is a high privilege to represent him and his family, and pay tribute to him and his extraordinary accomplishments.

S. 743, THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. This bill will significantly expand the protections available to government whistleblowers. Whistleblowers risk their careers to challenge abuses of power and the mismanagement of government resources. Protecting the rights of whistleblowers is critical for rooting out waste and fraud within the government.

I applaud the leadership and commitment of all of the Members of Congress and the advocates who have worked on this legislation. The bill we are considering today was introduced by Senator AKAKA. This bill should be a proud addition to his legacy as he closes out his long and distinguished career in Congress. Congressman TODD PLATTS and Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN also deserve credit for getting us here today. They have both worked to find a bipartisan path forward on this bill. I also want to thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA for

working with me and the other Members to get this bill to the House floor.

Here are just a few of the ways this bill strengthens current law. This bill will protect all lawful disclosures of waste, fraud, and abuse. Court decisions have narrowed the scope of protected disclosures in a way that the Office of Special Counsel says handcuffs it in its efforts to protect whistleblowers. For example, federal employees are currently not protected for blowing the whistle in the course of their job duties. This bill closes that loophole so that federal auditors and safety inspectors will be protected when they blow the whistle.

This bill provides whistleblower protections to Transportation Security Administration employees. Current law leaves TSA employees unprotected. Giving Transportation Security Officers the same protections as other federal employees will encourage the disclosure of issues that may threaten the safety of our airports.

Under this bill, whistleblowers can appeal a decision of the Merit Systems Protection Board to any federal court of appeals. Currently, all appeals go to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals which has consistently misinterpreted the intent of Congress with regard to the Whistleblower Protection Act.

This bill also protects government scientists for disclosures about agency censorship or other problems with the integrity of the scientific process.

This bill does a lot of good things but I will be honest. The bill that we are considering today is not as strong as I hoped it would be. Even if this bill passes we will still have work to do. We need to provide meaningful rights to whistleblowers in the intelligence community and we need to amend the law to allow whistleblowers the ability to go to court and have their case heard by a jury. I know this bill represents a compromise based on the political realities of today. But the fight is not over. I will continue to fight for the protections that are not in this bill and hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in that fight.

The journey of this legislation has been a long and frustrating one for the advocates of whistleblower protections who have been trying for almost a decade to get a strong bill enacted. We have been so close so many times only to have another roadblock get in the way. Mr. Speaker, I hope that today is different. I hope that this bill will have a clear path to the President's desk and become law. I urge every Member of Congress to stand up for whistleblowers, to stand up for good government, to pass this legislation, and then to join me tomorrow to continue the fight for whistleblower protections.

HONORING DEVEREUX'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Devereux Foundation on its upcoming 100-year anniversary.

The Devereux Foundation, founded in 1912, was the inspiration of Helena Devereux. During her years of service as a public school

teacher, Helena developed an interest in students who exhibited learning difficulties. Ms. Devereux theorized that students who had previously failed to achieve academically would thrive if given an individualized approach to learning as well as lesson plans that included social skills. She firmly believed that all students have the ability to become "a contributing and valued member of their community".

Moving from the classroom to a rented home, where she could provide intensive instruction, Helena mastered individualized education plans for students with learning differences and emotional handicaps. Her philosophy of "every child is a program" empowered her to work day and night to help children overcome their challenges.

As the success of Helena's methods continued to spread, the reach of the foundation also expanded. In 1938, the Devereux Schools received a non-profit charter establishing the Devereux Foundation. Today the Devereux Foundation has locations in eleven states across the Nation.

The Devereux Foundation students have proven Helena's hypothesis correct. Students performed the National Anthem a cappella at Columbia University, which is a feat for even the most musically gifted singers. Annually 15,000 individuals receive professional and quality services from the Devereux Foundation to overcome their learning and behavioral differences.

Although Helena is no longer with us, the Devereux Foundation's staff continues her legacy. Recently Dr. Megan Russell, Corporate Director of Clinical and Professional Affairs, has been invited to present the research findings of a recently completed Devereux study at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This research benefits not only children and adults of the Devereux Foundation but all individuals facing behavioral health challenges. The Devereux Foundation's work has been highlighted in Microsoft Case Studies. The Devereux Foundation uses specialized software to serve students more effectively by collecting data on their behavior to analyze and modify progress and treatment plans.

The innovation of Helena Devereux continues in the Devereux Foundation as they complete one hundred years of exemplary service throughout the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania and beyond. I send them my sincere congratulations and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Special Service Force for their unique service to the allied cause during World War Two. It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I honor the service and sacrifice of these forefathers of modern combined special operations forces. Their uniquely heroic contribution to the allied war effort in Europe played a crucial part in stemming the spread of tyranny and securing for future generations the blessings of freedom.